

risk in the Cape Horn area, but looking just at the approximately 200 homes in the area, the values at risk are \$80,000,000 (using a median value of \$400,000 per home). The cost of the exit is a very small percentage of the total resources at risk.

**Potential Funding:** Potential sources of funding are: Federal Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants or SHOPP funds

**Schedule:** The exit is already included in the Placer County 2022 Regional Transportation Plan.

It would be built during or after the planned Caltrans project to add a truck lane to the Eastbound “Three Mile” (AKA “Colfax Narrows”) area, which is several years in the future. There is no point in doing it sooner, because it would likely have to be redone after the truck lane project.

Engineering specifications will have to be developed (and approved by Caltrans), and funding acquired.

## 15 NEVADA COUNTY FIRE MITIGATION FRAMEWORK

### ***Background***

With its long hot summers, steep terrain, significant accumulations of wildland fire fuels, and significant residential development with lagging infrastructure, Nevada County represents the ideal environment for large, damaging wildfires. Over the years, much has been done to address the problem; from conditioning projects with fire protection measures, to adopting new ordinances in 1992, and most recently the coming together of a wide range of stakeholders to create the Fire Safe Council of Nevada County. Unfortunately, to this point much of the effort towards fire safety has been in response to specific issues or mandates and has not addressed the entire complex problem. The issues of, risk reduction, suppression capability, circulation, public desires, fuels management, affordable housing, evacuation planning, and fire prevention funding all need to be considered as the County addresses the wildland fire problem. A number of similar programs have been developed elsewhere; however, none of them have addressed all of these issues. This document could become a blueprint for other counties to follow.

### ***Proposal***

This request proposes that an inclusive effort be put into place to prepare a comprehensive Wildland Fire Mitigation Framework for Nevada County. Currently, within the various stakeholders i.e. fire service, law enforcement, development community, planners, and community groups, there is a wealth of knowledge and high level of awareness that can be captured and utilized to develop a framework for

the County. This framework can be used to provide fire hazard mitigation measures; however, currently none of these groups are prepared to compile all of the knowledge, data, or information into a working document. This proposal would provide funds for a field professional to create the framework that would define the process for the County to develop fire hazard mitigation measures relative to the wildland fire problem, the impacts of current and future development, the need for review of existing regulations for adequacy and appropriateness, and improved circulation routes to provide for safe emergency access and evacuation, through the expertise of the local knowledge base. The field professional will be responsible for arranging, facilitating, and recording meetings to gather the necessary information from the local experts and compiling that information into the aforementioned framework.

### **Event 1**

Nevada County Board of Supervisors to appoint a Fire Plan Committee.

Task completed

September 2004. (CDF Unit Chief – Tony Clarabut, USFS Forest Fuels Management

Specialist – Gary Fildes, Nevada County Consolidated Fire Chief – Tim Fike, Nevada

County OES – Rich Reader, and Fire Safe Council of Nevada County Representative –

Jeff Dunning)

(This portion has been completed)

### **Event 2**

Hire a consultant to arrange, facilitate, and record meetings to gather the necessary information from the local experts and compile that information into the framework.

(This portion has been completed)

### **Event 3**

Hold a series of committee meetings to develop the goals, objectives, and recommendations to present to the Board of Supervisors.

(This portion has been completed)

### **Event 4**

Hold a series of public meetings to develop consensus across the various interests in the County. This will allow the committee to present the Board with a document that should be met with a minimum amount of resistance from the variety of special interest groups present in the County.

(This portion has been completed)

### **Event 5**

Present the document to the Board of Supervisors for adoption.

(This portion has been completed)

### **Event 6**

Implementation of the Nevada County Fire Plan.

### ***Success Measurements***

The success of this proposal will be determined when the County decides whether to adopt the framework into the planning process. It has the potential to affect each and every citizen of Nevada County either directly through wildland fire mitigations or indirectly through high governmental costs and citizen losses due to another costly and damaging fire such as the Forty-Niner fire. A number of similar programs have been developed elsewhere; however, none of them have addressed all of these issues or developed a “road map” to help the community plan for the future. This document could become a blueprint for other counties to follow.

### ***Potential Stakeholders to participate in developing the final document***

- Nevada County
- FireSafe Council of Nevada County (FSCNC)
- Nevada County Board of Realtors
- California Association of Property Owners
- Sierra Club
- Residents of Nevada County
- Nevada County Resource Conservation District (NCRCD)
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Estimated Cost of Proposed Project Total = \$20,500

## **16 STAFFING OF THE NEVADA COUNTY FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE**

Nevada County is in the process of attacking the wildland fire problem in a new and innovative manner. Whereas the Defensible Space ordinances have been on the book for